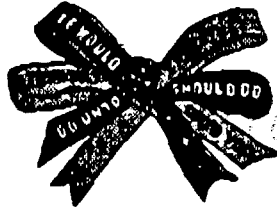


New Westminster Council of Women



67 '99 MAY 19 19:24

319 Archer Street
New Westminster, B.C.
May 17, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038 Irradiated Foods

The National Council of Women of Canada is on record as opposing Irradiated Foods as being unnecessary for food preservation and detrimental to health.

The frequent assumption by both our governments that processes and/or additives affecting our food supply are safe until proven otherwise is foolish in the extreme. Given this attitude by those who should be protecting our food supply it is imperative that the public be given the knowledge and thus the choice to avoid such doubtful food products. You should perhaps remember one definition of an expert is someone who knows more and more about less and less. This can lead to tunnel vision.

Since a number of reports indicate that irradiated foods cause health problems it is doubly important that they be labelled.

Sincerely yours

Florence M. Erwin, B.Sc.
President

98N-1038

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MAY 17 '99 21:31

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PAGE. 02

FROM : DOROTHY & RUSSELL BEACH

PHONE NO. : 604 522 3580

MAY. 17 1999 07:52PM P1

MAY 17 '99 18:16 SERVICES BY LILA

6044321662

TO:

604 522 3580 P01

May 15, 1999 MUST BE MAILED BY MAY 18

Address 319 Archer Street
New Westminster, B.C.
Canada V3L 4E3Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852Re: Docket No. 98N-1038 Irradiated Food:

- Over 70% of Canadians will not knowingly purchase irradiated foods. We have the right of freedom of choice, and therefore, all Nukefood, including ingredients must be labeled in large bold print, "Treated with Radiation".
- Tainted meat is the irradiation industry's primary hope for rescue from its bleak financial outlook. The millions of dollars spent on public relations will never convince thinking Mothers they should purchase Nukefood, be it called "cold pasteurization" or any other name.
- To Stop Deadly Illnesses we must feed our poultry and feed animals unadulterated healthy diets, Clean Up the Meat Production Process and Slaughtering Practices. It is that simple. There is no need for radiation-exposed food! There are many safe, (meaning "causing no harm") cheaper and more viable alternatives, i.e. Competitive Bacterial Exclusion @ \$1 per animal, Michael Doyle, University of Georgia, Steam Pasteurization Cargill Inc., Minneapolis, High Temperature Forced Air, Dole Foods - Hawaii, Ozon by the nation's electric utilities, as well as heat, cold, and infrared!
- Canada's Data-base shows benzene and toluene increasing with the radiation dose-rate. The U.S. District of Columbia ruled that the FDA may not permit the use of any food additive that is carcinogenic, regardless of the level. Benzene formation is greatest in high protein foods such as meats and poultry, which industry is targeting for irradiation. Irradiation generates approximately 30 parts per million (ppm) radiolytic products. FDA Register, 1988. Cancer may be caused by 1 (ppm)
- 80% of Children developed abnormal cells within a two week trial. This study has never been refuted in a credible medical journal. Effects of Feeding Irradiated Wheat to Malnourished Children, National Institute of Nutrition, Indian Council of Medical Research - India
- In June, 1988 the Decatur, Georgia plant experienced an accident causing a leak of cesium-137 at Radiation Sterillizers Inc. Ten workers were exposed. One truckload of empty milk containers was found to have spots of contamination. If the plant had specialized in irradiating food products, they could have been consumed before the leak was discovered. Cleanup costs were several million dollars over several years. These accidents have been common occurrences in this devastating industry and these accidents also occur in linear accelerator facilities.
- Even if electron beam accelerators are used, they can be converted to Cobalt or Cesium facilities.
- Refer to "Radiation-Induced Cancer from Low-Dose Exposure: An Independent Analysis" by John Gofman, M.D., Ph.D. Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, Inc. There is no safe dose or dose-rate!
- Scientific data proves damage to all species from consumption of irradiated foods. Experimental rats fed irradiated food showed impairment or loss of fertility, abnormal eyes, blindness, death from massive hemorrhages, and severe heart attacks, etc. Chief of FDA Review of Irradiated Food, Marcia van Gemert, Ph.D. chaired the FDA's review of studies, as well as the studies conducted for Atomic Energy Canada Ltd. She stated in her letter of October 19, 1993 to Assemblyman John Kelley of New Jersey that, "the studies did not prove safety of irradiated foods."
- The fastest growing industry today is Organic foods, free from irradiation, genetic engineering, and sewage sludge. Provide us with safe, healthful, nutritious foods harmonious and compatible with our body functions. "Safety" is the vital issue here. Science without health responsibility can no longer be tolerated by an intelligent society.

Sincerely yours
for safe foods,

Name

Signature

Florence M. Erwin

Florence M. Erwin